What's New in the MPDC

JUNE 11, 2001

PSA 303 REDUCES DRUG COMPLAINTS BY TARGETING OUTDOOR PAY PHONES
****

Has your neighborhood used the principles of community policing – partnerships and problem solving – to successfully address a crime or disorder problem? Share your success with the rest of the city. For information on getting your success story published, call Jo Hoots, MPDC's Police for Prevention Office, at 727-0784, or e-mail her at jhoots@mpdc.org.

Drug activity at the intersection of First Street and Rhode Island Avenue, NW, had been a long-standing problem for the Bloomingdale community in PSA 303. Police officers, neighborhood residents, ANC commissioners, and local businesses believed that two outdoor public pay phones, located at 103 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, were exacerbating the drug trafficking. So beginning in June 2000, the PSA team and the community joined forces in developing and implementing a plan for removing the phones and reducing the drug complaints. They wrote letters to the Public Service Commission (PSC) and achieved a 45-day test period in which the telephones were removed. During this period, the team continued to gather information on crime statistics and calls for service and took photographs. When it came time for the PSC formal hearing, the company that owned the telephones (New Age Communications) didn't show, while the PSA and community presented compelling testimony on the elimination of calls for drug complaints at the intersection once the phones were removed. The PSC recently ruled in favor of the community. For a complete description of PSA 303's success story, go to:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Policing for Prevention)

KEEP AGGRESSIVE DRIVING IN CHECK; "SMOOTH OPERATOR," WAVE 2, TAKES PLACE
****

Wave 2 of the region-wide "Smooth Operator" anti-aggressive driving campaign takes place June 11-17 in DC and communities throughout the Washington metropolitan area. Once again, law enforcement officers will be paying special attention to a variety of aggressive driving behaviors, including running red lights, speeding, unsafe lane changes, tailgating, improper passing and pedestrian violations. Violators of these and other forms of reckless driving will be ticketed and points assessed accordingly. During the first wave of "Smooth Operator," April 30-May 6, MPDC officers wrote nearly 2,300 citations. To learn more about "Smooth Operator," click on:

www.mpdc.org (Click on Services & Programs)

The District's red-light camera program continues to achieve a 60 percent reduction in violations at intersections with cameras. Now, evidence suggests the program is saving lives too. The number of traffic fatalities involving red-light running has declined from 16 in 1998 to 15 in 1999 to just 2 in 2000. Information about photo enforcement in DC is available at:

*www.mpdc.org
(Click on Services & Programs)*

CHIEF RAMSEY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD
FROM ADL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERSHIP
****

Applauding his leadership in furthering civil rights through innovative policies and training programs, the DC Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith presented Chief Ramsey with this year's Sigmund Livingston Award, during the group's recent annual meeting. The award, which bears the name of ADL's founder, recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions to furthering civil rights and fighting injustice. As examples of the Chief's leadership in these areas, Regional Director David Friedman cited the MPD's progressive use-of-force policies and training programs and the innovative training program that takes police officers through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to examine the role of the police in a diverse and democratic society. Chief Ramsey conceived of the Holocaust training program, which is now used by approximately one dozen law enforcement agencies, including the FBI. Read the news release on the award presentation at:

The Holocaust training program is receiving both local and national media interest. For additional background on this unique initiative, read Chief Ramsey's speech on the subject at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM OFFERS
AN INSIDE LOOK AT POLICE WORK
****

As part of the MPDC's continuing efforts to educate and inform our partners in community policing, the Department offers a "ride-along program." This public education program gives community policing activists, researchers and everyday citizens a better understanding of police operations by allowing them to accompany officers during their tour of duty in a police vehicle. For additional information about the MPDC's "ride-along" program, call the Community Outreach Section at 202-727-0783. You may also get information about the program, including a downloadable copy of the ride-along application form, on the MPDC Web site at:

"Partnerships for Problem Solving" is another key component of the MPDC's program to train the community in community policing. This program pairs up police and community trainers who go, PSA by PSA, training residents and PSA teams in the principles and practice of Policing for Prevention. For more information about this unique training program, go to:

www.mpdc.org
(Click on Services & Programs)

www.mpdc.org (Click on Programs & Services)

UPCOMING: EAST OF THE RIVER SAFETY AWARENESS DAY
****

The Metropolitan Police Department, in conjunction with the Clergy Police Community Partnership (CPCP), will host the East of the River Safety Awareness Day on Saturday, June 16, 2001, beginning at 11:30 am in the parking lot of the Penn Branch Shopping Center, 3244 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. The Awareness Day is designed to provide important safety information to young people and their families, help reduce fear in the community, and promote positive interaction between police and citizens of all ages. Get more information, including a complete schedule of events, at:

www.mpdc.org (Click on News)

****
Information, ideas or comments about this service?
E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.
Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
WWW.MPDC.ORG